

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND TOURISM IN NIGERIA*

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the role of English as a dynamic language in tapping and documenting the potentials and bounties of tourism in Nigeria. It argues that the English language is a potent instrument in harnessing tourism bounties of a people especially among the fifty-four member nations of the Commonwealth. In Nigeria the English language remains the most strategic language for the exploitation and marketing of tourism bounties available in the country. This is so because English is Nigeria's official language and language of unity in a multiethnic country like ours. In doing this, the paper makes a disclaimer. It is the fact that the author of this paper is not an authority on Tourism. The burden of this paper therefore is to lay bare the indispensable role of English – a global dynamic language and language of globalization – in the exploitation of tourism wealth of Nigeria, and in selling these bounties to world civilization for document. In the final analysis the paper makes the following declarations. We could practically do nothing without language. It is rather impossible that we could successfully discuss Tourism as an academic discipline in Nigeria in isolation of language, vis-à-vis, English, the arrowhead and 'DNA' of culture. In the same vein, it is rather a tragic mission to explore the bounties of Tourism in Nigeria and make same available to the global village outside the English language medium, in view of Nigeria's status as among the fifty-four member nations of the Commonwealth. In all, it is, indeed, a hopeless venture that we could succeed in our attempt to contribute our quota to world civilization without a sobering consideration to the English as an international or global

language, here Nigerian English. Since our findings evince the incontrovertible role of the English language in harnessing and documenting Tourism bounties of Nigeria, the paper proffers some recommendations on the way forward.

Keywords: tourism, DNA, tourism sites, global language, culture, globalization

INTRODUCTION: CONSTITUENTS OF TOURISM

Tourism essentially is made up of human and cultural components. However, what constitutes Tourism outlets is made up of physical and social environments of man. Of these physical or natural and human structures or institutions, human society gives expression to Tourism. An individual who is attracted by these tourism outlets on religious or business necessities or even on sheer excitement of curiosity, in what we may call sweet romance of life, or any other necessity, may be considered a *tourist*.

We will not belabor ourselves into brainstorming a technical exposition of the term Tourism, as no single definition will say the final word. Authorities on Tourism have not succeeded in coming up with a convincing and all-embracing definition of it, owing to its elusive and pervasive nature. For instance, Anima-Obi (quoted in Bullem, Essien and Akpama 142) perceives tourism“ as a free movement of people to destinations outside their normal abode or a temporary short-term visit as well as the services created to satisfy the need arising from these movements, within and across international boundaries.”

This simple but encompassing exposition evinces that tourism primarily comprises human and cultural features, in the sense that tourism phenomena, even though the physical or natural environment of man furnishes material for tourism; yet man is at the epicentre. Put differently, man powers tourism.

Bullem, Essien and Akpama, cited above, identify characteristics of tourism. These characteristics, according to them, include:

- a. Tourism evolves from the movement of people and their stay in various destinations.
- b. The condition embraces the journey to a destination and the stay at the destinations.
- c. The condition in (b) takes place outside the tourist's normal abode. The tourist activities differ from that of the resident and working population of the place which the tourist travel and stay.
- d. The period of movement to another destination is usually short.
- e. The destinations visited are not meant for purpose of taking up permanent residence or paid jobs (143).

Our x-ray of tourism bounties in place in Nigeria will revolve around the characteristics enunciated above by Bullem, Essien and Akpama. Thus, in this paper, while we will attempt to highlight the indispensable role of language, especially the English language in fashioning tourism in Nigeria, it will also seek to bring to the fore the realms of Tourism and culture as well as some tourism sites that abound in Nigeria. It is by means of English, we contend, that we will be able to package and document these bounties of Tourism in Nigeria and make them available for consumption to Nigerian and foreign tourists as well as showcase or upload same to world civilization.

THE BOUNTIES OF TOURISMIN NIGERIA

Tourism is everybody's business, because we consciously or unconsciously, intentionally or unintentionally, wittingly or unwittingly embark on tourism mission. Tourism, no doubt, is a

complex and diverse phenomenon, in view of the fact that its realms touch on virtually all segments of man and society. As a matter of clarity, society embraces human beings, their activities and relationships to one another in society in relation to their natural and social environments (Anyachonkeya, 33).

Owing to its pervasive nature, experts in the field of Tourism sometimes approach the phenomenon at interdisciplinary level (Okpoko and Okpoko). According to Okpoko and Okpoko (19), "Tourism is... a complex and pervasive phenomenon. It touches all aspects of man and society, be they social, political, economic, cultural, historical or physical environments." From their clarification, we notice that Tourism goes beyond the confines of culture, as it touches even on physical and historical phenomena. Such historical features have to do with man or natural phenomena.

As admitted earlier, the scope of Tourism is pervasive and divergent; as a result, specialists in the field and governments take a great interest in the development of museums and historic sites, parks, game reserves, beaches, natural beauty spots, holiday resorts, hospitality industries, and souvenirs in a bid to attract tourists for economic gains. In Nigeria all the bounties of tourist attractions are documented and developed in English, Nigeria's official language, as well as language of globalization and the most widely used language, in terms of population in the world's global village. We want to ponder on *Culture* and *Tourism* and ascertain what affinity they have or synonymous relations they share.

CULTURE AND TOURISM

Every human society has its distinctive culture. Society of people is composed of people, who populate that social setting, human institutions and relationships (Okpoko and Okpoko, 36). The discipline of Social Studies may probably proffer us some insight into discourse on Tourism in its attempt to define itself. Thus

Social Studies defines itself as the study of man and his interaction with his physical and social environments. So, as hinted earlier, Tourism thrives in an environment of these physical and social institutions of man with man, the gladiator, as it were, at the core. We agree with Tourism specialists, who assert that Tourism development does not take place in a vacuum, but within a given socio-cultural context. But when we examine culture, we appreciate its pervasive nature, that it involves the totality of the people's way of life. Everybody is involved in the learning and transmission of cultural elements (Anyachonkeya, 50). Indeed, culture is the hub of human civilization, for a society without technology is no society and a society without shared beliefs and values is no society either (Anyachonkeya, 34).

E.B. Tylor (1), quoted in Ezewu, et al (34) defines culture as "that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, laws, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society. Boas, cited in Okpoko and Okpoko (37), says that culture is "the distinctive body of beliefs and social institutions that seemed to characterize each society." Linton, also quoted in Okpoko and Okpoko (37), sees culture as "the sum total of knowledge, attitudes and habitual behavior patterns shared and transmitted by members of a society." Also Kroeber perceives culture as the mass of learned and transmitted motor reaction, habits, techniques, ideas, values and the behavior they include" (quoted in Okpoko and Okpoko (37).

From these definitions, which furnish material for Tourism, we delineate culture into material and nonmaterial, that is, concrete items and abstract concepts. We may further subdivide culture into technological, sociological and ideological cultures. Technological culture consists of the material or tangible aspects of a people; sociological culture has to do with the behavioral patterns of a people and their (kinship) relations with each other within the cultural ambience as well as their value system. The ideological

aspect of culture pertains to the abstract notions the people perceive and accept as both psychological and mystical or philosophic realities. They comprise their fears and aspirations, love and hates as well as their spiritual values. One salient example of our ideological culture is the desire of parents to have their children become greater than them, in terms of attainment and to be interred by their children; this is their aspirations. On the converse, it is the fears of parents to bury or to conduct the funeral of their offspring. To actualize these aspirations and to avoid such bad visitations of their fears, they demonstrate reverence in the deities of their forebears and build edifices of these supernatural beings, which we find in confounding mountains, awesome rock formations, mysterious caves, mausoleums of their ancestors, etc, all of which constitute tourism sites and destinations. From this picture, we infer that humans have capacity for spirituality, their essence of their essence, which in themselves represent tourism issues for tourists. The conglomerate of the features of culture, in a way, make up human institutions, some of which are attractive, some exciting, some awesome, all of which furnish raw material for Tourism discipline we investigate.

Since we talk about people and culture, in relation to Tourism, we need to observe though, that there are certain admirable traits of a people which are latent in the culture and which facilitate and engender – and even endanger! – Tourism. Such traits we may find in the ethos or fundamental spiritual characteristics and values of a people, like high achievement motivation, innovativeness and resourcefulness, acute concern for success and goodness, high capacity for hard work, forthrightness...(Animalu, Ngoddy and Nwachukwu, 59). In view of the fact that cultural features constitute a great component of Tourism, we join Emeji and Agberia (43-52) in calling for cultural policy for Nigeria.

TOURISM SITES AND DESTINATIONS IN NIGERIA

Tourism sites and destinations in Nigeria may be grouped into natural and cultural attractions that overwhelm tourists. The natural attractions span from the awesome and exciting scenery and landscapes, eternal sunshine of the wild, to fauna and flora which the Good God has graciously bestowed and endowed Nigeria with. Examples of these abound in the Mambila Plateau of Taraba State and Obudu Cattle Ranch in Cross River State. We find as well other potential and exploitable tourism sites at Lokoja, Kanji Dam, including opulent and plenty water ways, such as coastal creeks and lagoons, notable rivers as well as botanical gardens available in some sites, universities and residencies of some Nigerians. Other potential sites include Unwana Beach, in Ebonyi State, Oguta Blue Wonder Lake and Urasi River, all in Imo State, Badagry, Lekki, Brass, Bonny and Opobo, all of which are provided with swimming facilities for the operation of water sports of various facets. Of course, we have Jos Wildlife Safari, Yankari National Park and Kanji National Park.

When we come to the cultural tourist sites, the following readily come to mind: archeological sites, such as palaces of Obis', Obas'', Emirs', and rivers, shrines, such as Igwekala Shrine of Umunneoha (Imo State), Ogbunabali of Ikwerre (Rivers State), the Omo-Ukwu Temple, abundant museums and libraries as well as University towns. We also have other social environments as imposing buildings and architectural designs in the institutions cited above, the seats of our governments – Federal and States – as well furnish us with tourist centres. Our list must not exclude handcraft villages like Ikot Ekpene, Akwaete, Iseyin, Benin, and others. We must also cite numerous festivals in Nigeria; they include the Agugu Fishing Festival, New Yam (*Iri-ji* or *Ahijoku*) Festival in Igbo land (Okpoko and Okpoko).

Having cited some of these natural and cultural tourist destinations and attractions in Nigeria, we present an ornately packaged tourist

attractions in Nigeria by Okpoko and Okpoko (40-46, 77, 113,114), with modification, adaptation and additions from other sources. The list of these selected natural and cultural cum institutions of glamour is by no means exhaustive in this essay. Let us, please, go through these tourist resorts.

NORTHEASTERN CIRCUIT:

(Covering Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Taraba and Adamawa States)

Natural Attractions:

1. Lake Chad Sanctuary
2. Kyarimi Park
3. Lake Alau
4. Lake Nyakira
5. Yankari Natural Park
6. Wikki Warm Spring
7. Lame Burra Game Reserve
8. Mambila Plateau
9. Hot Spring at Lamale
10. Kamale Peaks of Mubi
11. "The Sister Rocks" at Song
12. Jangani Mountain Range of Ganye
13. Rolling Uplands of Muri
14. Zanda Hills
15. * Gashaki-Gumpti National Park, Taraba State
16. * Sekur Cultural Landscape, Madageli, Adamawa State

Cultural/Historic Attractions:

1. Kukas (Tombs of the Shehus)
2. Maliki Dance of the Kanuris
3. Rabeh Fort at Dikwa
4. BirninNgazaragamu
5. 5. The Legend Snake at Guwo
6. Collections of paintings and markings of the people of Gwozai
7. Shani-Menwala Festival

8. Bade Fishing Festival
9. Shira Rock Painting
10. Kushi Festival
11. Gere Masquerade
12. KeffinMadaki Historic Monument
13. Lamido Palace at Yola
14. Graveyard of Modibbo
15. Calabash Carvings
16. Mat Weaving
17. Pottery
18. Metal Works

NORTHWESTERN CIRCUIT:

(Kaduna, Katsina, Kano, Jigawa, Sokoto, Kebbi, Niger, and the FCT)

Natural Attractions:

1. The River Garden in Kaduna with its historic Lugard Bridge
2. Kusugu Well in Daura
3. Baguada/Rock Castle Area Game Reserve
4. Camping Grounds at River Wudil
5. Wana Rafi and Rocks
6. Tigan Dam
7. Gurara Falls
8. Zuma Rock
9. Shiroro Gorge
10. * Surame Cultural Landscape, Surame, Sokoto State
11. * The Ancient Nok Settlement, Jaba, Kaduna State
12. * Yankari National Park, Bauchi State
13. * Kainji National Park, Niger State

Cultural/Historical Attractions:

1. The regimental Museum of Nigerian Army in Zaria City
2. National Museum in Kaduna

3. Lugard Hall in Kaduna
4. Katsina City Walls
5. Gobarau Minaret in Katsina
6. Yan Awaki Camel Market
7. Groundnut Pyramids
8. Historic Buildings in Kano
9. Kofa Mata Dye Pits, Kano
10. Kano Central Mosque
11. Durbar in Kano
12. Makama Museum
13. Kanta Museum
14. Usman Dan Fodio's Tomb
15. Sultan's Palace
16. Argugu Fishing Festival
17. Ohola Festival
18. Abuja Pottery
19. Bida Glass and Bead Works
20. Hand-made Glass Beads and Bangles
21. Embroidery
22. Dyeing
23. * Queen Amina Wall, , Zaria, Kaduna State
24. * Ancient Kano City Walls, Kano, Kano State
25. * The Millnium Park, Maitama, Abuja
26. * Abuja Arts and Crafts, Abuja, FCT

MIDDLE-BELT CIRCUIT:

(Plateau, Benue, Eastern Area of Kogi, Including Lokoja and Environs)

Natural Attractions:

1. Jos Wildlife Safari Park
2. Shere Hills
3. Assop Falls
4. Wase Rock
5. Karra Falls
6. Kerang Volcanic Mountain

7. Niger-Benue Confluence Zone at Lokoja

Cultural/Historic Attractions:

1. Jos Zoological Garden
2. National Museum, Jos
3. Museum of Traditional Nigerian Architecture (MOTNA)
4. BarkinLadi Golf Club
5. Ogani Fishing Festival
6. Jos Cultural Centre
7. Kagh-hir Theatre
8. Fishing Festivals at Katsina-Ala
9. Iron of Liberty ZakiIbian Cenotaph, Lokoja
10. The first primary school in Northern Nigeria at Lokoja
11. Ajaokuta Steel Complex

SOUTHWESTERN CIRCUIT:

(Lagos, Oyo, Oshun, Ondo, Kwara, Western Parts of Kogi)

Natural Attractions:

1. Badagri Beach
2. The Bar Beach, Victoria Island, Lagos State
3. Tarkwa Bay
4. Tin-Can Island Port
5. Lekki Beach
6. Erin-Ijesha Waterfalls
7. Ikogosi Warm Springs
8. Ebonmi Lake at IpesiAkoko
9. Ipole/Horo Waterfalls
10. Borgu Game Reserve
11. Owu Waterfalls
12. Kainji National Park (Game Reserve)
13. Olumo Rock
14. Uren Bank Holiday Resort
15. * Osun-Osogbo Grove, Osogbo, Osun State
16. * Oke-Idanre Hill, Oke-Idanre, Ondo State

17. * Coconut Beach, Badagri, Lagos State
18. * The New Afrika Shrine, Ikeja, Lagos State

Cultural/Historic Attractions:

1. TafawaBalewa Square
2. National Museum, Onikan
3. Badagri Slave Trade Chain
4. Eyo Festival
5. Ilojo Bar
6. Zoological Garden, University of Ibadan
7. Oshun Oshogbo Shrines
8. Ife Museum of Antiquities
9. The Palaces of various Obas
10. Owo Museum
11. Holy Apostles Community, Aiyertoro
12. Shrine of BrikisuSungbo
13. Agemo and Egungun Masquerade Festivals
14. Esie National Museum
15. Wreckage of Mungo Park's Boat (*Joliba*), Jebba
16. Old City Walls, Benin
17. National Museum, Benin
18. Emotan Cenotaph or Statue, Benin
19. Bronze Casters' Studios in various parts of Benin City

SOUTH EASTERN CIRCUIT:

(Covering Abia, AkwaIbom, Anambra, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo States [Delta, Edo*]):

Natural Attractions

1. The 'Wonder' Tree at IkotEkpene
2. Ogbunike Caves, Ogbunike, Anambra State
3. Agulu Lake
4. Amaokpala Lake
5. Nike Lake Resort
6. The Coal Mines, Enugu
7. Agulu-Nanka Erosion Site

8. Range of Hills around Enugu and Nsukka
9. Oguta Lake (Holiday Resort)
10. Arochukwu Cave
11. River Niger Holiday Resort at Patani
12. Niger Bridge at Asaba
13. Oil Towns of Sapele, Ugheli, and Warri
14. Obudu Cattle Ranch
15. Agbokin Waterfalls near Ikom
16. Oil Museum, Oloibiri
17. Oil Refinery at Elesa-Emene
18. Ahasse Beach
19. Kininia Beach
20. Unwana Beach, Ebonyi State
21. EkpeAkuma (Imo State)
22. * Ibeno Beach, Akwalbom State
23. *Obudu Mountain Resort, Cross River State
24. * Ngwo Pine Forest, Enugu State
25. *Awhum Waterfall, Enugu State
26. * Arochukwu Long Juju Slave Route, Abia State
27. * Port Harcourt Tourist Beach, Rivers State
28. *AlokIkomMoonliths, Cross River State
29. * Tinapa Free Zone and Resort, Calabar, Cross River State
30. * Oban Hills, Oban, Cross River State
31. *The Giant Footprint of UkhuseOke, Edo State

Cultural/Historic Attractions:

1. Oron Museum
2. The Mask at IkotEkpene
3. Igbo-Ukwu Archeological Site
4. Mmonwu Festival
5. Ofala Festivals in parts of the Circuit
6. Mkponkiti Acrobatic Dance Troupe, Umunze
7. Uzoiyi Cultural Festival at Umuoji
8. Wide range of local crafts including pottery at Inyi, Achi and Agwu, etc

9. Blacksmithing at Awka and Nkwere
10. Zoological Garden in Enugu
11. National War Museum, Umuahia
12. The Gigantic Ikoro Drums in Bende
13. *DrNnamdiAzikiwe Tomb, OniseOnire, Anambra State
14. Aba Central Market
15. Umudike Museum, Umuahia
16. National Museum of Colonial History, Aba
17. Grave of Mary Slessor in Calabar
18. King Jaja of Opobo's Grave, Monument and Palace
19. Isaac Boro Amusement Park
20. Slave Ports at Brass and Bonny
21. National Museum, Port Harcourt
22. AmadiohaOzuzu Shrine
23. * Eze Sylva IbenyeUgbala Palace, Okporo, Orlu, Imo State
24. * Royal Palace of Oba of Benin, Edo State
25. *Nana Living History Museum, Warri, Delta State

In view of the fact that many "nations across the globe are becoming increasingly aware of the economic, social and cultural potentials of Tourism to the growth and development of societies," we join the bandwagon in documenting and marketing our tourism destinations, using the English language medium as vehicle (Doki, 1). We want to explore our airports as components of Tourism sites and destinations in the country.

AIRPORTS: Name/Location, Status and Aircraft Category of Airports

We now investigate the airports in Nigeria and ascertain their status and aircraft categories.

S/No	Name/Location	Status (Air Traffic)	Aircraft Category
1.	MurtalaMuhammed Airport, Lagos	International	Concord

2.	NnamdiAzikiwe Airport, Abuja	International	Boeing 747
3.	AminuKanu Airport, Kano	International	Boeing 747
4.	Port Harcourt Airport	International	Boeing 747
5	Akanulbiam International Airport	International	Boeing 747 (?)
6.	Calabar Airport	Domestic	Boeing 727
7.	Benin Airport	Domestic	Boeing 727
8.	Ibadan Airport	Domestic	Boeing 737
9.	Ilorin Airport	Domestic	Concord
10.	Sokoto Airport (Sultan Saddik)	Domestic	Boeing 747
11.	Maiduguri Airport	Domestic	Boeing 747
12.	Akwalbom Airport	Domestic	?
13.	Jos Airport	Domestic	Boeing 747
14.	Yola Airport	Domestic	Boeing 747
15.	Kaduna Airport	Domestic	Boeing 747
16.	Akure Airport	Domestic	Boeing 737
17.	Bauchi Airport	Domestic	Boeing 737
18.	Katsina Airport	Domestic	Boeing 737
19.	Minna Airport	Domestic	Boeing 737
20.	Sam Mbakwe (Cargo) Airport, Owerri	Domestic	Boeing 737
21.	Uyo Airport	Domestic*	Boeing 747
22.	Margaret Ekpo Airport	Domestic*	?
23	AbubakarTafawaBalewa Airport	Domestic*	?
24.	Yakubu Gowon Airport, Jos	Domestic*	?
25.	Kebbi Airport	Domestic*	?
26.	Asaba Airport	Domestic*	?
27.	GombeLawanti Airport	Domestic*	?
28.	Jalingo Airport	Domestic*	?

29.	Warri Airport	Domestic*	?
30.	Makurdi Airport	Domestic*	?

*Added to the List

Source: Okpoko and Okpoko (113, 114); *A Special Focus on Tourism*

Destinations in Ebonyi State of Nigeria, n.d;

<http://mail.google.commail/u/0/h183uewz1bo9p1/?&th=15e14793d069d&ser=SIKc561167ftJ4fD5TSwdB4w0V...8/29/2017 1:33:43 pm>

We want to investigate at greater length tourism site destinations in Ebonyi State of Nigeria in the South Eastern Circuit.

1. Amancho Cave in Afikpo South LGA
2. Oziza Beach, Afikpo North LGA
3. Nkpurukem Cave, AfikpoNoirth LGA
4. Ndibe Beach, Afikpo North LGA
5. Okposi Salt Lake, Ohaozara LGA
6. Uburu Salt Lake, Ohaozara LGA
7. Oferekpe Beach, Ikwo LGA
8. Akpoha Hidden Palace, Afikpo North LGA
9. Elomoniele Hill, Abakaliki LGA
10. NkpumaekwaokuIzi LGA
11. OkpuruUke Lake, Abakaliki LGA
12. Abakaliki Rice Husk, Abakaliki LGA
13. Oshiri Cattle Ranch, Onicha LGA
14. Ovuwmezeaka, Ohaukwu LGA
15. Enyigba Salt Mine and Man Cave, Abakaliki LGA
16. Abakaliki Green Lake, Government House, Abakaliki
17. Abakalikin Gulf Course, Abakaliki LGA
18. Libolo Valley in Edda, Afikpo South LGA
19. Oguzoronwiya Forest Reserve, Igbeagu, Izzi LGA
20. Slave Market/Route a't, Ezza North/South Ohaozara LGA
21. Esu-EcharaUgo in Okposi, Ohaozara LGA

22. OkeminiEnyigba, Abakaliki LGA
23. OgbaVarVara, Ohaukwu LGA
24. Kpam Kamp Lake, Ikwo LGA
25. OchoOkwu (River), Ikwo LGA
26. 24 Corners, Afikpo South LGA
27. Crocodile Pond, Ezza North LGA
28. Ancient Mortar, Ezza South LGA
29. Ivo Pottery Site, Ivo LGA.*

* Source: Ebonyi State. (45). *Untapped Treasure: Celebrating Who We Are*. Abakaliki: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ebonyi State.

Having gone this length so far, let us examine the role of language in the execution of speech acts or sociolinguistic experience.

LANGUAGE AND TOURISM IN NIGERIA

What would we do without language? We talk culture, live culture and find fulfillment by means of language, our culture-carrier (Anyachonkeya, 50). Lewis (198) succinctly restates Anyachonkeya assertion this way: "The point to note is that language both depends on culture and explains culture.

Since language is DNA of culture, as it were, we may not successfully harness the bounties of Tourism of a people outside language. Thus, be it "nature-based tourism, culture-based tourism and technology-based tourism", language is at the core (Bullem, Essien and Akpama, 144). By means of language in its ideation and in interpersonal interaction, man interacts with his social and physical environments in the process of exploring and exploiting the tourism wealth that are in place. Elst and Bohanna (58), while stressing the indispensableness of language, say that language lies at the foundation of culture. Without its aid in thinking, learning and teaching, our technologies and organizations could never have evolved much beyond those of the chimpanzee, and our intellectual life, our ideation, would be little better.

In effect, language and culture are not independent or mutually exclusive cognitive systems composed of analogous structures and processes (Casson, 19). Whether we look at Tourism as an intellectual matter, psychological reality or as a social experience, language is at the heart of it. Therefore, we contend that we will not have run into hasty generalization or committed type one error to conclude that language is highly indispensable in the delineation, classification, development and documentation of Tourism sites and destinations anywhere.

THE IMPERATIVES OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN THE EXCAVATION OF NIGERIA'S TOURISM BOUNTIES

In Nigeria, we need the English language legacy as a colonial heritage to succeed. This language is not only Nigeria's official language, but also a global language as well as language of globalization and of the information communication technologies and the emerging literacies they encase. On the global nature of language, Elst and Bohannan (60), state that of all the languages spoken today, "English...has the largest vocabulary," and as a result, "English (occupies the status of) the new international lingua franca." Anyachonkeya (4) shares the optimism of Elst and Bohannan in the fortunes of English as a global language. He says that the English language is not only used in international politics, international trade, scholarship, science and technology, the language also holds dominance in the international civil aviation. The language, he restates, is used regularly by more than 320 million speakers and is used second only to Chinese. He concludes by saying that "the English language is a paragon and pacesetter among the Indo-European languages, or among any other language families of the world, by way of spread and usage."

In the light of the above, the usage perspective of English as a global language is enormous. We need the language to identify, delineate, classify and document Tourism sites and destinations in

Nigeria and make them available to world civilization and in the intellectual community.

IMPLICATION OF FINDINGS

From this brief survey of Tourism sites and destinations in Nigeria, we are confident that Nigeria is immensely great when it comes to her tourism potentials which beg for exploitation and harnessing for export to the global consortium. At this time of post-recession in the country, the time is ripe enough that we de-emphasize mono economic base on oil for export. Our oil wells are significantly depleted and oil economy is no longer a major player in economic development.

It is important that we do a meticulous document of our tourism sites and destinations and package them in excellent English by our communication experts for export. Interestingly enough the English language is a global language; it is not an international language that is delimited in terms of usage among the “fifty-four member states of the Commonwealth (Anyachonkeya, 629).” Rather it is an octopus in language, a language that occupies a position of *primus enter pares* of all the leading world languages.

Note that we stated and called for the harnessing of Nigeria’s Tourism sites and destinations; they should be documented in excellent English. That means that there are varieties of the language in terms of usage. What determines “excellent” English is determined by what we refer to in sociolinguistics as communicative competence; that is, the use of appropriate variety giving due consideration to medium, purpose and audience. It is at this juncture we talk about *correctness and appropriateness* in the English language usage. To this end, if we agree that Nigerian English makes for our communicative competence in our correctness and appropriateness, so be it. We do not see anything absurd in documenting our tourism potentials in Standard Nigerian English (SNig.), not West African English as documented in

certain western sources, especially in *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (0, or Inside front page).

One may ask the stake we have in whichever variety of English we may wish to document our tourism potentials. Yes, we have sufficient stake. For a start, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, that some assert that in every one-fifth of Africa, there is a Nigerian. Again, Nigeria is the largest Black democracy on the planet earth. Furthermore, Nigeria has more than four hundred language groups. And, so as a multilingual nation state, Nigeria can parade more than this number of varieties of English. In effect, we can establish Nigerian Englishes to boost the number of the global Englishes.

To let the sleeping dogs lie presupposes we accept the jaundiced narrative of Africa as the west has told it. It is comparable with the tale that Mungo Park discovered River Niger; after all the Niger was not missing; it had been there before Park's voyage or before his arrival on the African soil. The natives knew the big river and even had a name for it. We cannot accept the racist prejudice. Something really needs to be done to write our story ourselves or rewrite our story; that will make for the decolonization of Nigerian English. Indeed, as Achebe rightly or succinctly put it, "Africa is people 155-170." To allow African story to stay as it is told by the racist west, then it is anachronistic, comparable with Mungo Park kindergarten tale.

The elastic strength of the English language enables it to continue to expand its lexicon

and to play a leading role of all the world's great languages; one salient evidence of its unique elasticity is the existence or emergence of world *Englishes*. This explains why today we have such English varieties we may isolate as the world Englishes, such varieties as *Australian English (AustralE)*; *British English, (BrE)*; *Canadian English, (CanE)*; *Indian English (IndE)*; *Irish English,*

(IrishE); North American English, (NAME); English from Northern England (NEngE); New Zealand English, (NZE); Scottish English, (ScotE); South-East Asian English, (SEAsianE); English from the United States, (US); West African English, (W AfrE); Welsh English, (WelshE), (Oxford Advanced Learner's English, 0).

In the light of the foregoing, Nigeria tourism sites and destinations ought to be documented for export to the global community in the excellent variety of Nigerian English. It is the onus of Nigeria – and Africa – by extension to tell her story in the derived or indigenized colonial language. The western world *cannot impose* a variety of English on us, and lump us the giant Nigerian Englishes simply with “West African English”, as we have observed in the publications of the editors of *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*. Indeed, the Standard Nigerian English being canvassed here should be codified from the three major ethnic languages of Nigeria, namely, Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba, as advocated by the author in one of his essays elsewhere.

Without prejudice, though, or rather being passionate about it, our tourism sites and destinations should be documented in English, that is, standard Nigerian English, owing to the very elastic strength of English, which has enabled it to continue to expand its lexicon. The sources of its lexical growth are rather infinite. For instance, sources of lexical growth and change for the English language at its linguistic goatskin bag, as it were, include, borrowing from other languages, compounding, formation by affixes, functional shift, figures of speech, clipping, back-formation, acronyms, imitation of sounds, blending or blends, changes in words, degeneration and elevation, generalization and specialization, exaggeration and understatement, abbreviation and extension, metathesis and folk etymology, shifts in association, radiation of meaning, literature, science and technology (Anyachonkeya, 287-300).

Owing to the obvious strengths and advantages which the English language has over and above other leading world languages, Gooden, in narrating how the language has conquered the world, introspects, and states: "The future of the English language is assured in the sense that it will continue to be used around the world by increasing numbers of people for spoken and written communication. For the foreseeable future, English is set to be the dominant global tongue (220)." It is not only Gooden who has shared this optimism. Graddol, quoted in Singh (200), also introspects and outlines the order of prominence of world languages that is likely to emerge come 2050. Graddol reports:

Projections on the *engcomodel*, taking once more into account economic and demographic changes, as well as the possibility of language shift to tongues that become increasingly attractive to speakers, predict that the 'big six' languages in 2050 are likely to be English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Hindi/Urdu, and that languages currently perceived as globally significant, such as German, French and Japanese, may concomitantly decline in status.

The prospects of the English language are indeed bright; this makes it expedient that we document our tourism sites and destinations in the excellent Standard Nigerian English, a fusion of the English varieties of Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba, Nigeria's WAZOBIA. Faithful documentation of this heritage of ours and its packaging and marketing will go a long way in increasing our foreign exchange earning instead of depending on the now dwindling fortunes of oil.

We cannot conclude the subtask of this essay without restating our use of the English language as Hobson's choice, take it or leave. No matter the discipline one may have studied in one's tertiary education in Nigeria as a member of the Commonwealth of

Nations, the one and only index to measure one's erudition or literacy is his communicative competence in the English language. If, the person, sadly, uses this elite language awkwardly, his audience will suspect his credibility or his claim of having accessed tertiary education. Again, it is by means of the *right* variety of English that he has to sell his skill. In effect, we need the English to document Nigeria's Tourism bounties and market same available to the global market for consumption.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the foregoing, the paper recommends as follows:

One, in the post-recession Nigeria, it is high time we de-emphasized mono economy; there is the great need for diversification. Our credible alternative is in Tourism in view of the fecundity of Nigeria's Tourism destinations. We need to harness these Tourism bounties in (Nigerian) English as the only available international language that cut across linguistic and political divides.

Two, our linguists should embark on language engineering to develop standard Nigerian English, from the three major Nigerian languages, through which we document these Tourism potentials and make available to the civilized world.

Three, teachers of all disciplines and students should work hard to acquire communicative competence in the English language so that they will be able to communicate to their audience of diverse linguistic backgrounds with mutual intelligibility in view.

CONCLUSION

Nigeria is flamboyantly rich in Tourism sites and potentials, the whole details of which could not be accounted for in this essay, owing to the scope and purpose of this paper. These include natural, cultural cum historical tourist attractions. We cannot

successfully delineate, explore, classify and document these tourism bounties without language; the language that occupies a pride of place, and for this purpose, in the case of Nigeria, (Nigerian) English. This is so because the English language is the deoxyribonucleic acid of world politics and diplomacy, globalization, intellectual sagacity in the intellectual community, the digital multimedia, international civil aviation, and etcetera.

In all, we may not do much or succeed well enough to contribute our quota to world civilization in the area of Tourism without giving a serious consideration to the usage perspectives of English as an international language, more especially as we envision it to be among the top twenty economies in the foreseeable future.

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